HEALTH
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COSFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

WEST SUFFOLK.

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1948.

ROBERT H. CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Cosford in the County of West Suffolk for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

Public Health Offices,
8, Whiting Street,
Bury St. Edmunds.

September 1949.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Cosford.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit for your favourable consideration my thirteenth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, being that for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

5th July, 1948, was the date on which the changes under the National Health Service Act, 1946, took effect - this Council, together with all other District and Borough Councils in West Suffolk, by seeking delegation of powers from the County Council, indicated its desire to participate in the moulding of the health services enumerated in Part III of the Act. This delegation of powers was not granted but many alterations to the County Council's schemes suggested by the Districts were incorporated.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) Medical - One part-time Medical Officer of Health,

Robert H. Clayton, M.B., B.S., B.Hy.,
D.P.H. (Durham), Cert. Mental Deficiency and
Allied Subjects (London), appointed 1st February, 1937.

This Officer does not engage in private practice but holds in addition the following appointments:-

Medical Officer of Health,	Newmarket U.D.C.	Appointed	July	1st,	1936.
	Mildenhall R.D.C.	"	"	"	"
	Thingoe R.D.C.	"	"	"	"
	Thedwastre R.D.C.	"	"	"	1938.

(b) Others - One Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

G. H. Hine, T.I.MUNE.,M.S.I.A., Meat and Other Foods Certificate R.S.I. Appointed 1st May, 1947.

One additional Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Surveyor.

E. A. Panks, M.S.I.A., Meat and Other Foods Certificate R.S.I., M.Inst.Housing. Appointed 17th July, 1947.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area		48,530 acres.
	1948.	(1947)
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population	9,364	(9,121)
Number of inhabited houses at end of year according to Rate Book	3,244	(3,163)
Rateable Value	£28,471	(£28,239)
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£129	(£126)

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

	Total.		Male.		Female.	
	1948.	(1947)	1948.	(1947)	1948.	(1947)
Live Births.						
Legitimate	167	(199)	87	(107)	80	(92)
Illegitimate	11	(11)	8	(7)	3	(4)
Stillbirths.						
Legitimate	6	(4)	4	(2)	2	(2)
Illegitimate	Nil	(1)	Nil	(Nil)	Nil	(1)
Deaths.	136	(120)	65	(61)	71	(59)
Deaths under 1 year.	2	(1)	1	(1)	1	(Nil)

	Cosford.			England & Wales.	
	1936 to 1945 Decade Average.	1948.	(1947)	1948.	(1947)
Birth Rate. (Live births per 1000 civilian population).	15.1	19.0	(23.0)	17.9	(20.5)
Rate of Illegitimate births per 1000 legitimate births.	54	65.9	(55)	-	(-)
Stillbirth Rate per 1000 total (live & stillbirths).	27.9	32.6	(23.3)	-	(-)
Death Rate per 1000 resident population.	14.7	14.7	(13.2)	10.8	(12.0)
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.					
All infants per 1000 live births.	33.0	11.2	(4.8)	34	(41)
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate births.	33.3	6.0	(5.0)	-	(-)
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate births.	27.4	90.9	(Nil)	-	(-)

Two deaths of infants under one year of age occurred (1 female legitimate and 1 male illegitimate), one death from Maternal Causes (Heading 30), 29 deaths from Cancer, no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough, and two from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) were recorded.

On the following page is a table giving the causes and the number of deaths occurring at the various age groups. The totals correspond with the Registrar General's figures.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the New Abridged List of Causes, as used in England and Wales and Northern Ireland, as set out on Page XXXIX of the Manual of the International List of Causes of Deaths - 1938.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS. Area .. .. 40,530 acres.

	1940.	(1947)
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population	3,360	(3,121)
Number of dwelling houses at end of year according to Rate Book	3,244	(3,163)
Rateable Value	£20,471	(£24,239)
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£129	(£136)

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

	Total.		Males.		Females.	
Live Births.	1940.	(1947)	1940.	(1947)	1940.	(1947)
Legitimate	127	(121)	67	(107)	60	(92)
Illegitimate	11	(11)	6	(7)	5	(4)
Stillbirths.						
Legitimate	6	(4)	4	(2)	2	(2)
Illegitimate	Nil	(1)	Nil	(Nil)	Nil	(1)
Deaths.	116	(120)	65	(60)	71	(60)
Deaths under 1 year.	2	(1)	1	(1)	1	(Nil)

	England & Wales.		Rural District.		Burford & Witney	
	1940 to 1945 Average					
	1947	1940.	(1947)	1940.	(1947)
Birth Rate. (Live births per 1000 population).	19.1	15.0	(23.0)	17.9	(20.[illegible]
Rate of Illegitimate births per 1000 Legitimate births.	54	49.3	(55)	-	(-
Stillbirth Rate per 1000 total (live & stillbirths).	27.9	32.6	(33.3)	-	(-
Death Rate per 1000 resident population.	14.7	14.7	(13.8)	10.8	(12.[illegible]
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year. All infants per 1000 live births.	34.0	24.9	(4.0)	34	(41.[illegible]
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate births.	32.3	6.7	(4.2)	-	(-
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate births.	27.4	50.5	(Nil)	-	(-

Two deaths of infants under one year of age occurred (1 female legitimate and 1 male illegitimate). One death from Maternal Causes (heading 30), 25 deaths from Cancer, no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough, and two from Diphtheria (both 5 years) were recorded.

In the Tuberculosis group in a table giving the causes and the number of deaths occurring at the various age groups. The totals correspond with the Registrar General's figures.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the New Abridged List of Causes, as used in an Index are Below and Northern Areas as set out on Page XXXIX of the Manual of the International List of Causes of Death - 1938.

M = Male. F = Female.	Deaths at the sub-joined ages of "RESIDENTS" whether occurring in or beyond the District. Under 1 year.		1 & under 5.		5 & under 15.		15 & under 25.		25 & under 45.		45 & under 65.		65 & upwards.		TOTAL Registrar General's figures.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1
8. Syphilitic diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
13. Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus(M) Uterus (F)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	2	1
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	5	1	6
15. Cancer of Breast.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
16. Cancer of all other sites.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	7	4	9	7
17. Diabetes.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
18. Intracranial vascular lesions.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	10	6	11
19. Heart Disease.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	20	23	23	24
20. Other diseases of circulatory system.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
21. Bronchitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
22. Pneumonia.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	4
23. Other respiratory diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
24. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
27. Other digestive diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	2
28. Nephritis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
30. Other maternal causes.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
32. Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile disease.	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
33. Suicide.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
34. Road Traffic Accidents.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
35. Other violent causes.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	1
36. All other causes.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	4	5	5
Total: Males.	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	14	-	45	-	65	-
Total: Females.	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	12	-	54	-	71

The age and sex distribution of deaths is indicated in the table below.

		Male. 1948.	Male. 1947.	Female. 1948.	Female. 1947.	Total of Male & Female. 1948.	Total of Male & Female. 1947.	
	Under 1 year	1	(1)	1	(1)	2	(1)	
	1 year & " 5 years	1	(-)	1	(-)	2	(-)	
	5 years " " 15 "	-	(-)	1	(-)	1	(-)	
	15 " " " 25 "	1	(1)	-	(2)	1	(3)	
	25 " " " 45 "	3	(5)	2	(7)	5	(12)	
	45 " " " 65 "	14	(10)	12	(6)	26	(16)	
65 & over	65 " " " 70 "	9	(7)	5	(7)	14	(14)	73% in 1948 and 73% in 1947.
	70 " " " 75 "	12	(5)	12	(5)	24	(10)	
	75 " " " 80 "	10	(14)	6	(10)	16	(24)	
	80 " " " 85 "	4	(10)	16	(13)	20	(23)	
	85 " " " 90 "	8	(8)	9	(8)	17	(16)	
	90 " " " 95 "	2	(-)	5	(1)	7	(1)	
	95 " " " 100 "	-	(-)	1	(-)	1	(-)	
		65	(61)	71	(59)	136	(120)	

M = Male.
F = Female.

Deaths at the sub-joined ages of "PATIENTS" whether occurring in or beyond the District.

	Under 1 year.		1 year & under 5.		5 years & under 15.		15 years & under 25.		25 years & under 45.		45 years & under 65.		65 years & upwards.		Total Deaths.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-
8. Syphilitic diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
13. Cancer of gross. cavity: oesophagus(M) Uterus (F)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	2	-
11. Cancer of stomach and duodenum.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	5	1	5
14. Cancer of breast.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. Cancer of all other sites.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	4	3	4
17. Diabetes.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
18. Intracranial vascular lesions.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	5	10	8	11
19. Heart Disease.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	20	23	23	24
20. Other diseases of circulatory system.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
21. Bronchitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
22. Pneumonia.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	3
23. Other respiratory diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
24. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
25. Nephritis (under 5 years)	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
27. Other accidents & diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
29. Malaria.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
30. Other maternal causes.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
32. Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile marasmus.	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
33. Suicide.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
34. Road Traffic Accidents.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35. Other accidental causes.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	1
36. All other causes.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	4	5	4
Total: Males.	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	14	-	45	-	63	-
Females.	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	12	-	34	-	51

The age and sex distribution of deaths is indicated in the table below.

	Males.				Females.				Total of Males & Females.			
	Number.		%		Number.		%		Number.		%	
Under 1 year	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	2	(2)	1	(1)
1 year & under 5 years	1	(1)	1	(1)	-	-	-	-	1	(1)	1	(1)
5 years & under 15 years	-	-	-	-	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
15 years & under 25 years	1	(1)	1	(1)	-	-	-	-	1	(1)	1	(1)
25 years & under 45 years	3	(3)	3	(3)	2	(2)	2	(2)	5	(5)	3	(3)
45 years & under 65 years	14	(13)	14	(13)	12	(12)	12	(12)	26	(25)	13	(12)
65 years & over	45	(45)	45	(45)	34	(34)	34	(34)	79	(79)	39	(39)
	65	(64)	65	(64)	50	(50)	50	(50)	115	(114)	58	(57)
	70	(70)	70	(70)	51	(51)	51	(51)	121	(121)	60	(60)
	75	(75)	75	(75)	54	(54)	54	(54)	129	(129)	64	(64)
	80	(80)	80	(80)	59	(59)	59	(59)	139	(139)	69	(69)
	85	(85)	85	(85)	64	(64)	64	(64)	149	(149)	74	(74)
	90	(90)	90	(90)	69	(69)	69	(69)	159	(159)	79	(79)
	95	(95)	95	(95)	74	(74)	74	(74)	169	(169)	84	(84)
	100	(100)	100	(100)	79	(79)	79	(79)	179	(179)	89	(89)
	63	(63)	63	(63)	136	(136)	136	(136)	199	(199)	100	(100)

	Rateable Value.	Penny Rate Product.	No. of inhabited houses.	Registrar-General's Estimate Population.	Total Deaths.	Deaths under one year.		Births.		Stillbirths.	
						Legit-imate.	Illegit-imate.	Legit-imate.	Illegit-imate.	Legit-imate.	Illegit-imate.
1936.	£23,210	£105	2,707	9,091	126	4	Nil	131	9	3	Nil
1937.	£23,605	£107	2,923	8,912	145	4	Nil	105	4	5	1
1938.	£24,701	£112	2,942	8,941	132	4	Nil	114	4	5	Nil
1939.	£25,175	£113	2,975	9,230	156	5	Nil	128	3	1	Nil
1940.	£25,480	£116	3,107	9,956	147	6	Nil	125	2	2	1
1941.	£25,423	£116	3,102	10,790	160	5	Nil	158	2	6	Nil
1942.	£25,539	£120	3,098	9,748	126	6	Nil	143	6	6	Nil
1943.	£33,218	£124	3,090	9,441	129	4	Nil	148	4	4	1
1944.	£26,240	£120	3,096	9,467	145	5	Nil	159	15	5	Nil
1945.	£26,521	£116	3,098	9,014	126	2	2	142	24	1	Nil
TOTALS FOR DECADE.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,392	45	2	1,353	73	38	3
ANNUAL AVERAGE DURING DECADE. 1936 to 1945.	£25,911	£115	3,014	9,459	139	4.5	0.2	134	7.3	3.8	0.3
1946.	£26,749	£116	3,111	9,065	136	4	Nil	156	8	4	Nil
1947.	£28,239	£126	3,163	9,121	120	1	Nil	199	11	4	1
1948.	£28,471	£129	3,244	9,364	136	1	1	167	11	6	Nil

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. As from 31st March, 1947, the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service have continued these services, without a block payment. Use has been made of both the Cambridge Laboratory, under the directorship of Dr. R. M. Fry, and the Ipswich Laboratory under the directorship of Dr. P. Martin.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. The County Council became responsible for these services on the 5th July, 1948, the Appointed Day, for the commencement of the National Health Service Act. In effect this appeared to be only a new financial arrangement, for the County Council decided to carry out their obligations by making use of the existing services provided by the Red Cross Society.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. The County Council as the Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act proposed to continue the existing arrangements for the provision of a domiciliary nursing service. It is not expected that adequate staff will be available for a long time, but the provision of a night service will be considered when the shortage of nurses becomes less acute.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. The National Health Service Act has changed the responsibility to other authorities for some clinics and treatment centres, none of which are the responsibility of the Local District Council.

(e) HOSPITALS. The hospitals serving the District passed into the hands of the Minister of Health on 5th July, the Appointed Date.

The hospitals used by Cosford residents may be judged on the following information with regard to live births and deaths.

Of the 178 total live births to Cosford residents, only 92 occurred at the homes of the residents in the Cosford District. The remaining 76 births took place in the main at hospitals beyond the area of the District.

Of the 136 deaths of Cosford Residents in 1948 there were 94 which occurred at their own homes in the District and 1 which occurred at the homes of relatives outside the District. The remaining 41 deaths occurred at hospitals as under:-

17 Walnuttree (P.A.C.) Hospital, Sudbury.
9 East Suffolk & Ipswich Hospital, Ipswich.
5 West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds.
4 St. Mary's (P.A.C.) Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds.
2 St. Audry's Hospital, Melton.
1 Heigham Hall, Norwich.
1 Isolation Hospital, Colchester.
1 Taunton & Somerset Hospital, Taunton.
1 St. Leonards Hospital, Sudbury.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. Comprehensive Scheme. In September 1948, at Lavenham, a Public Inquiry was held regarding the application of the Cosford Rural District Council to borrow £274,000 for the purpose of providing a comprehensive scheme of water to their District. At the Inquiry a great deal of evidence was made available regarding the conditions existing in the Rural District at that time and it was apparent that the situation varied greatly according to the locality. Thus, within the three semi-urban parishes of Lavenham, Boxford and Bildeston, 98% of the population had water either laid into their homes or available within 200 feet. In direct contrast, however, in the small parish of Wattisham 93% of the inhabitant lived more than 200 feet from their water supply and of these 32% were more than a quarter of a mile away. In quality too, there was great variation. The Council's seven main schemes supplied wholesome water to a large number of consumers. Although the hardness and high iron content gave rise to complaints from time to time, the less fortunate inhabitants of the other villages were dependent upon a varierty of sources, such as private bores, wells, springs and even ponds and a considerable proportion of these were found to be unsatisfactory. The Scheme was subsequently approved and it is to be hoped that an early start will be possible.

Main Supplies. The following table gives details of the parishes served by the Council's own mains:-

Parish.	Remarks.	Pop.	No. of Houses Supplied.		Approx. No. of persons served	
			Into Houses.	Within 200 ft.	In Houses.	Within 200 ft.
Bildeston.	All built up portion of parish.	618	103	74	300	225
Nedging.	Parts of parish only.	291	61	31	180	90
Boxford.	All built up portion.	633	135	49	410	150
Edwardstone.	Small parts of parish only.	362	11	7	30	20
Polstead.	Very small extension from Boxford mains.	624	3	-	10	-
Brettenham.	Main part of parish served.	321	73	2	224	6
Hitcham.	Outlying portions not served.	644	75	51	230	150
Lavenham.	All built up area.	1,464	211	283	630	830
Lindsey.	Very small installation.	172	8	8	24	30
Whatfield.	Major portion of parish.	241	40	25	125	70
			720	530	2,163	1,571

In the whole District these figures represent 22% and 16% houses with a piped supply and with a standpipe within 200 feet, and 23% and 17% of the population with a piped supply and with a standpipe within 200 feet.

In Cockfield part of the village is supplied by a main served by a deep well owned by the West Suffolk County Council, while another standpipe provides a supply for a few houses in a different part of the parish. The Council house estates at Elmsett, Kersey, Monks Eleigh, Polstead and Edwardstone of respectively 10, 6, 8, 12 and 4 houses, have their own bores and water is laid on to the houses. All these installations gave a sufficient supply during the year. At Hitcham the demand has for several years been very close to the maximum output; in July another bore was brought into service, the water being pumped directly into the main. In this way it was always possible to deal with the demand.
Owing to the increase in consumption it was found necessary to double the size of the storage tanks at the small works at Lindsey. During the year no breakdown took place at any of the Council's works which caused a cessation of the supply.

Twenty-two samples of main water were taken during the year; 18 were satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory.

Piped Water Supply Extensions During 1948. In May an extension was made from the bore supplying the Council houses at Elmsett in order to provide three taps in the village, thus obviating for a considerable number of persons, a long walk to the public pump. In June a pipe was laid from a private borewell to supply six cottages and a farm at Priory Green, Edwardstone, and a tap was installed in Edwardstone Street, fed by the Council house estate borewell.
An extension of the Brettenham mains was carried out in October to supply a farm and several cottages in Dux Street.

Parishes Not Served by Main Supplies. The following table gives the proportion of population in each village having water in their houses within 200 feet and ¼ mile respectively:-

Parish.	Population.	% with water indoors.	% with water within 200'.	% with water between 200' and ¼ mile away.	Over ¼ mile.
Aldham.	182	16	9	21	54
Brent Eleigh.	192	32	22	24	22
Chelsworth.	165	23	65	10	2
Elmsett.	286	27	20	35	18
Groton.	316	27	46	14	13
Kersey.	398	25	51	24	-
Kettlebaston.	79	17	70	13	-
Layham.	372	31	36	30	3
Milden.	136	32	47	16	5
Monks Eleigh.	433	16	43	31	10
Polstead.	624	12	48	39	1
Preston.	240	27	16	35	22
Semer.	178	16	53	18	13
Thorpe Morieux.	317	12	62	24	2
Wattisham.	166	5	2	61	32

The parishes of Aldham, Elmsett, Kersey, Kettlebaston, Layham and Preston have borewells fitted with a handpump and the quality and quantity of the water produced is satisfactory: several public wells, however, notably at Windsor Green, Cockfield, and Wattisham, are liable to contamination. The other parishes rely upon privately owned wells and borewells, springs, and in a few cases, ponds. Samples taken from private wells show the majority to be polluted and owing to the contaminated nature of the surrounding soil, it is often difficult to improve the quality.

Water Carting. Water carting was necessary in one locality only: the hamlet of Windsor Green in the parish of Cockfield.

Plumbo Solvent Action. None of the water supplies of the district appear to have any plumbo solvent action.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. Following the Public Inquiry held in March 1947, concerning sewerage schemes for the parishes of Lavenham, Boxford and Bildeston, the tender for Lavenham was accepted in December 1948 for the sum of £43,050; work was subsequently commenced and steady progress is being made. It will soon be possible, therefore, to improve the very insanitary conditions at present prevailing in this parish.

In Boxford, the position has been considerably worsened owing to the completion and occupation of a further eight houses; the already inadequate sewer is now taxed to the limit of its capacity. The Council have, therefore, reluctantly decided that they can build no more houses in this parish until a sewer is available. Conditions in Bildeston have also deteriorated owing to the occupation of eight houses and this village is now traversed by a net work of evil-smelling ditches. It is therefore hoped that it will be possible to make an early start upon the task of sewering these two parishes.

In Whatfield a sewer has been laid to serve eight new Council houses, and it has been possible to connect twelve existing Council houses and one other dwelling.

The Council have also given instructions for schemes to be prepared for the sewering of Kersey and Monks Eleigh and the preliminary work in connection with the first village is almost completed.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. In the previous paragraph reference has been made to the extreme need to complete sewerage schemes in the District - it is apparent that without them the rivers and streams of the District, whilst not in the gross state of some of the England's larger rivers, are polluted.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. Owing to difficulty in obtaining delivery of a vehicle, it was not possible for the Council in 1948 to undertake their proposed scheme of night soil collection by direct labour - it was, however, possible after several years of monopoly, to obtain tenders from different contractors for the carrying out of this work and to insist upon a somewhat higher standard both in the collection and method of disposal of pail closet contents in the twice weekly collection at Lavenham, Bildeston and Boxford.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING. Refuse Collection. The parishes of Lavenham, Boxford and Bildeston, which are semi-urban in character, have a weekly collection; the remaining parishes are visited every four weeks. The work is carried out by the Council's employees, a driver and a loader, and the refuse is disposed of by arrangement with the Melford R.D.C. in a tip just within their boundary. A feature of this service during the year has been the increase in the amount of refuse collected, particularly in the more rural parishes.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. The following particulars of sanitary work during 1948 have been supplied to me by Mr. Hine:-

Number of Inspections or Visits.

Number of visits Public Health and Housing Acts	771
Tents, vans and sheds	4
Factories	15
Shops	25
Cowsheds & Dairies	52
Butchers premises	21
Water samples	104
Water supply	331
Refuse collection	55
Night soil collection	22
After infectious disease	19
Disinfestation	6
Salvage	8
Food premises	32
Bakehouses	13
Slaughterhouses and meat inspections	27
Schools	13
Housing Sites	166
New Buildings	71
Housing Management	764
Requisitioned properties	138
New drainage	91
Alterations to existing buildings	147
Sewerage and sewage disposal	82
Petroleum	5

Factory Act, 1937.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	27	12	4	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	15	3	1	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * (excluding out-workers' premises).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	42	15	5	Nil

* i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 103 (1)), Institutions. (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Section 107 and 108).

Cases in which defects were found.

	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred. To H.M. Inspector.	Referred. By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	2	2	Nil	2	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
Unsuitable or defective	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total:	5	5	Nil	2	Nil

Part VIII of the Act.
OUTWORK.
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work.	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect.110 (1) (c).
Knitting and Needlework.	3

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES. 25 visits were paid but no action was required

(v) CAMPING SITES. 4 visits required, no subsequent advice.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.
(vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.
(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.
} No change.

4. SCHOOLS. 13 visits were made to schools in connection with the water, washing and sanitary arrangements.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. (1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) — 729

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose — 771

(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925. — 62

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose — 65

(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation — 56

(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation — 578

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. — 42

3. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which

(a) Demolition Orders were made — 2
(b) Undertakings accepted not to relet for human habitation. — 8

(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders — 5

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at end of the year — 6
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein — 8
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein — 45
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year — 10
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year — 18
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases — 84
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority having taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. — Nil

In 1948 the Council completed the building of 40 houses. A further 7 houses were built in the District during the year by private enterprise.

At 31st December, 1948, the Council had 44 houses under construction and a further 4 houses were under construction by private enterprise.

The Hobhouse Survey has now been completed, as indicated in the following table:-

Parish.	Category. 1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	Misc. (N.W.C. Farms &c.)	Total.
Aldham.	5	24	12	0	12	0	53
Brent Eleigh.	1	1	21	5	12	24	62
Brettenham	7	13	34	23	11	12	100
Bildeston.	7	54	63	22	15	40	201
Boxford.	23	67	84	15	18	32	239
Cockfield.	12	62	77	14	22	47	234
Chelsworth.	3	8	25	9	1	9	55
Edwardstone.	0	69	13	0	6	0	88
Elmsett.	6	54	12	0	16	0	88
Groton.	0	22	26	7	9	19	83
Hitcham.	3	28	112	2	20	36	201
Kersey.	12	13	57	27	16	24	149
Kettlebaston.	0	0	10	5	6	9	30
Lavenham.	29	101	229	38	71	49	517
Layham.	6	14	65	4	3	28	120
Lindsey.	3	5	15	16	10	11	60
Milden.	0	17	5	0	11	8	41
Monks Eleigh.	8	3	86	20	18	22	157
Nedgingwith Naughton.	0	25	30	6	15	39	115
Polstead.	1	34	81	0	19	32	167
Preston.	0	27	21	0	9	20	77
Semer.	0	50	21	15	5	13	54
Thorpe Morieux.	2	54	3	11	22	0	92
Wattisham.	0	19	3	0	19	0	41
Whatfield.	6	43	86	4	15	0	154

The table on page 12 indicates the extent of the progress which the Ministry of Health have allowed the Council to make, and also allows comparison to be made with the achievements of my other four District Councils.

SECTION E.
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. The number of registered cowkeepers within the district is 76 (26 Tuberculin Tested, 6 Accredited and 44 non-designated) Fifty-two visits were made to premises as routine inspections and to advise upon alterations and improvements.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. Centralised slaughtering for Cosford takes place outside the District at the Bures Slaughterhouse. A certain number of provately owned pigs were slaughtered and inspected in Cosford. Visits were also paid to butchers shops both regarding cleanliness and the quality of the meat supplied. There are no stalls supplying meat within the district.

Details of animals inspected are as follows:-

	Cattle.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Number inspected	-	-	-	-	94
Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	1
Part of carcase "	-	-	-	-	-
% affected with disease	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Part of carcase "	-	-	-	-	-
% affected	-	-	-	-	-

Food Poisoning outbreaks. No such outbreaks occurred in the District during the year.

	MILDENHALL. Pop.14,210.		THEDWASTRE. Pop.8,524.		COSFORD. Pop.9,364.		THINGOE. Pop.16,630.		NEWMARKET. Pop.9,680.	
	Total Post War.	Total in Year.	Total Post War.	Total in Year.	Total Post War.	Total in Year.	Total Post War.	Total in Year.	Total Post War.	Total in Year.
COUNCIL HOUSES.										
Completed at end of 1946	Nil	(Nil)	18	(18)	Nil	(Nil)	6	(6)	35	(35⊗)
" " " " 1947	55	(55)	55	(37)	62*	(62*)	80	(74)	84ø	(49)
" " " " 1948	94	(39)	102	(47)	102*	(40)	184	(104)	212ø	(128⊙)
CONVERSIONS BY COUNCIL.										
Family Units provided in 1946	11	(11)	3	(3)	21	(21)	37	(37)	17	(17)
" " " " 1947	33	(22)	9	(6)	21	(Nil)	41	(4)	30	(13)
" " " " 1948	33	(Nil)	24	(18)	34	(13)	71	(30)	62	(32)
COUNCIL HOUSES IN COURSE OF ERECTION AT END OF 1948.										
Roofed and Plastered.		21		12		38		24		2
Roofed.		6		12		-		2		-
Eaves Level.		4		4		4		2		-
Damp Course Level.		4		6		2		-		-
Footings.		-		8		-		24		-
TOTAL:		35		42		44		52		2
Work not commenced in 1948 but tenders invited or approved.		14		20		8		50		44
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HOUSES.										
Completed at end of 1946	36	(36)	5	(5)	3	(3)	7	(7)	3	(3)
" " " " 1947	48	(12)	21	(16)	13	(10)	8	(10)	8	(5)
" " " " 1948	55	(7)	31	(10)	20	(7)	29	(12)	11	(3)
CONVERSIONS BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.										
Family Units provided in 1946	13	(13)	1	(1)	2	(2)	1	(1)	5	(5)
" " " " 1947	26	(13)	1	(Nil)	2	(Nil)	3	(2)	25	(20)
" " " " 1948	50	(24)	5	(4)	2	(Nil)	3	(Nil)	35	(10)
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HOUSES IN COURSE OF ERECTION AT END OF 1948.		-		5		4		32		2

* Includes 30 Prefabs. ø Includes 50 Prefabs. ⊗ Includes 35 Prefabs. ⊙ Includes 93 permanent non-Traditional = "Easiform"

(c) ADULTERATION.

(d) CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

(e) NUTRITION.

(f) SHELL-FISH.

(g) WATER-CRESS.

No change.

SECTION F.
PREVALENCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of Infectious Diseases among the civilian population during the year. These are the final numbers after corrections subsequently made either by the Notifying Medical Practitioner or by the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Disease Hospital.

ALL NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING 1948.

	Whooping Cough.		Measles.		Pneumonia.		Para-Typhoid B.		Erysipelas.		Cerebro-spinal Fever.		Diphtheria.		Puerperal Pyrexia.	
Grand Total: M. F. 170. 89 81.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Totals.	53	48	24	18	3	3	1	1	6	8	1	2	1	-	-	1
Age 0 to under 1	6	4	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 " " 3	14	9	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 " " 5	12	11	8	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 " " 10	18	21	6	4	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
10 " " 15	2	1	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 " " 25	-	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
25 " " 45	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 " " 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

T U B E R C U L O S I S.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1948.

During 1948 there were 10 new cases as follows:-

7 Pulmonary: 3 Males. 18, 25, 72 years.
4 Females. 18, 32, 38, 63, years.
3 Non-Pulmonary: 2 Males. 2, 8 years.
1 Female. 26 years.

There were two deaths:

2 Pulmonary. 1 Male. 70 years.
1 Female. 37 years.

(c) ALUTERAGION.

(d) DIETICAL & BIOCHEMICAL EXAMINATION.

(e) NUTRITION.

(f) SHELL-FISH.

(g) WATER-CRESS.

No change.

SECTION X.

PREVALENCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of Infectious Diseases among the civilian population during the year. These are the final numbers after corrections subsequently made either by the Notifying Medical Practitioner or by the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Disease Hospital.

ALL NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING 1940.

Disease	Total: M. 89	F. 81.	Totals- 53	40	M. 2	F. 2	M. 3	F. 3	M. 1	F. 1	M. 6	F. 6	M. 3	F. 1	M. 2	F. 2	M. 1	F. -
Age	0 to under	1		6	4	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
"	1 "	"	3	14	3	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
"	5 "	"	5	12	11	8	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
"	5 "	"	10	10	21	6	4	1	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
"	10 "	"	15	2	1	2	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
"	15 "	"	25	-	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
"	25 "	"	45	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
"	45 "	"	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
"	65 and	over.		1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-

T U B E R C U L O S I S.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1940.

During 1940 there were 76 new cases as follows:-

7 Pulmonary: 3 Males. 10, 25, 72 years.
4 Females.16, 32, 36, 63, years.

3 Non-pulmonary: 2 Males. 2, 8 years.
1 Female. 26 years.

There were two deaths:

2 Pulmonary. 1 Male. 70 years.
1 Female. 37 years.